IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-7, 9-16, 18, 19, and 21-24, cancel claim 25 without disclaimer or prejudice, and add new claims 26-28, as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~to set~~ of setting up a security association ~~(SA)~~ between a first node and a second node in a packet switched environment, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

forwarding a prefix value ~~in a message~~ from the first node to the second node[[:]], said prefix value referring to a portion of the internet protocol address associated with the first node; and

creating a security association between the first node and the second node ~~using~~ based on the prefix value.

2. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the packet switched environment is a ~~IP Multimedia Subsystem (IMS)~~ internet protocol multimedia subsystem of a 3rd generation ~~(3G)~~ network

3. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first node is ~~User Equipment (UE)~~ user equipment.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second node is a ~~Proxy Call State Control Function (P-CSCF)~~ proxy call state control function entity.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~1~~ 28, wherein the message is a protocol message

6. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the protocol is a ~~Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)~~ session initiation protocol.

7. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the message is a ~~SIP REGISTER~~ session initiation protocol register message.

8. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the prefix value is included in a header of the message.

9. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the header is ~~the Security Client~~ a security client header

10. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the prefix value is included in an extension parameter of the ~~Security Client~~ security client header

11. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the prefix value has a first value if there is only one IP address or a second value if there is a plurality of [[IP]] internet protocol addresses.

12. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the prefix value is allocated by a ~~Gateway GPRS Support Node (GGSN)~~ gateway general packet radio service support node.

13. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a first node and a second node in a packet switched environment, wherein the first node is ~~arranged~~ configured to forward its prefix value in a message to the second node, said prefix value referring to a portion of the internet protocol address of the first node, and wherein the second node is ~~arranged~~ configured to create a security association with the first node ~~using~~ based on the prefix value.

14. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the packet switched environment is a ~~IP Multimedia Subsystem (IMS)~~ internet protocol multimedia subsystem of a 3rd generation network.

15. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the first node is ~~User Equipment (UE)~~ user equipment.

16. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the second node is a ~~Proxy Call State Control Function (P-CSCF)~~ proxy call state control function entity.

17. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the message is a protocol message.

18. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the protocol is [[SIP]] session initiation protocol.

19. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the message is a ~~REGISTER~~ register message.

20. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the prefix value is included in a header of the message.

21. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 20, wherein the header is a security-client ~~Security-Client~~ header.

22. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 21, wherein he prefix value is included in an extension parameter of the security-client ~~Security-Client~~ header.

23. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the prefix value has a first value if the SA has one [[IP]] internet protocol address only and a second value if the security association [[SA]] has a range of [[IP]] internet protocol addresses.

24. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the prefix value is allocated to the [[UE]] user equipment by a gateway general packet radio service support node ~~Gateway GPRS Support Node (GGSN)~~.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (New) A communication terminal in a packet switched environment, comprising:

a prefix value to be forwarded to a node in the packet switched environment to create a security association with the communication terminal said prefix value referring to a portion of the internet protocol address of the communication terminal.

27. (New) A security association apparatus, comprising:

a first communication means and a second communication means in a packet switched environment,

forwarding means for forwarding a prefix value in a message from the first communication means to the second communication means, said prefix value referring to a portion of the internet protocol address of the first communication means, and

creating means for creating a security association between the first communication means and the second communication means based on the prefix value.

28. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of forwarding a prefix value from the first node to the second node, comprises forwarding the prefix value in a message.